

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-05 IO-10 JUSE-00

NSAE-00 RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-04 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3684

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8518

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: NARCOTICS CONTROL - CUSTOMS ALLOTMENT

REF: STATE 271131

1. WE APPRECIATE THE CONCERNS OF DEPARTMENT REGARDING OUR PROGRAMMING FOR BILATERAL PROJECT AGREEMENTS. WE ARE HAPPY TO COMPLY WITH REQUESTS FOR CLARIFICATION AND JUSTIFICATIONS. HOWEVER WE FEEL THAT HAVING SUBMITTED INFORMATION REQUIRED BY EACH OF SEVERAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM DEPARTMENT AND HAVING REVIEWED OUR NEEDS EXHAUSTIVELY, UTILIZING THE SERVICES OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED PROGRAM OFFICERS, AND AID MISSION DIRECTOR, IN ADDITION TO REVIEWS BY THE EMBASSY NARCOTICS COORDINATING COMMITTEE, THAT LAST MINUTE REQUIREMENTS FOR DETAILED ANALYSIS OF END USE FOR ALLOTTED FUNDS PUTS A SIGNIFICANT EXTRA BURDEN ON THOSE PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN NEGOTIATING A BILATERAL PROJECT AGREEMENT WITH A HOST COUNTRY.

2. AS REGARDS YOUR CONFUSION OVER FUND SHIFTING TO CALENDAR YEAR, OUR 1974 BUDGET REQUEST FOR THE CUSTOMS PROJECTS WAS NOT APPROVED IN WASHINGTON. THIS FORCED US TO NEGOTIATE A SHORT TERM PROJECT AGREEMENT UTILIZING

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LIMITED COMMODITY FUNDS THAT HAD BEEN AUTHORIZED AND DE-

FERRED IN FY 73 AND LIMITED ADDITIONAL FUNDS APPROVED IN A SPECIAL ALLOTMENT FOR A SECOND CUSTOMS ADVISOR IN FY 74. THUS, IN FACT, WE HAVE NEVER HAD A FY 74 BUDGET FOR THE CUSTOMS PROJECT.

3. IN RESPONSE TO YOUR SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS:

A. THE NARCOTICS INTELLIGENCE UNIT HAS BEEN FORMED AND IS FUNCTIONING. IT DOES NOT YET HAVE THE FULL COMPLEMENT OF MEN THAT IS ANTICIPATED BY THE END OF 1975.

B. THE NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT UNIT DOES NOT YET EXIST. THIS IS AN ELEMENT OF THE PROJECT AGREEMENT THAT HAS BEEN PATIENTLY AND CONTINUOUSLY PROPOSED BY THE ADVISOR DURING 1974 AND HAS FINALLY ACHIEVED ACCEPTANCE BY THE GOE.

C. THE 15 PARTICIPANTS ARE PRESENTLY ENGAGED IN CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT WORK IN THE FIELD. FIVE OF THE PARTICIPANTS ARE PRESENTLY PREPARING A COURSE OF NARCOTICS TRAINING TO BE GIVEN TO CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL NATIONWIDE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE NATURE OF CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT WORK INVOLVES THE DETECTION OF ALL CONTRABAND, INCLUDING NARCOTICS. THE PREVIOUS PROJECT AGREEMENTS HAD NO SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS FOR NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT BUT RATHER OVERALL IMPROVEMENT OF CUSTOMS CAPABILITIES WITH EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS WHICH WERE NOT, AT THE TIME OF THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENTS, A RECOGNIZED PRIORITY PROBLEM IN ECUADOR. IT IS THE RESULT OF THESE PRIOR AGREEMENTS AND ADVISORY PROGRESS THAT WE HAVE COME TO THE POINT OF ASSIGNING SPECIFIC NARCOTICS PRIORITIES.

D. RE STATUS OF COMMODITIES PROVIDED IN 1974. THESE COMMODITIES ARE PRESENTLY BEING UTILIZED IN CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT PATROLS ON THE FRONTIERS AND AT PORTS OF ENTRY. THEY ARE BEING UTILIZED IN OVERALL CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, WITH EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS, OUTLINED IN C ABOVE. AS HAS BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY THE CUSTOMS SERVICE IN ECUADOR HAS UNDERGONE A COMPLETE REORGANIZATION DURING 1974 WITH THE PURPOSE OF UPGRADING THE CAPABILITIES OF THE SERVICE. THE COMMODITIES SUPPLIED DURING 1974 HAVE HAD A MARKED EFFECT IN THIS UPGRADING PROCESS. SPECIFIC EXAMPLES PROVIDED IN FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH.

E. UNDER FY 73 AGREEMENT WE PROVIDED 16 VEHICLES AT THE SAME TIME THE GOE PROVIDED 13 VEHICLES. THESE VEHICLES
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GAVE THE CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL A PATROLLING CAPABILITY FOR THE FIRST TIME. GOE PLANS INCLUDE 100 PATROL VEHICLES TO BE UTILIZED IN ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES. OUR PRESENT REQUEST FOR 9 VEHICLES TO SUPPLEMENT THE 16 ALREADY PROVIDED WILL ACCOUNT FOR 25 PERCENT OF THE TOTAL. CURRENT PLANS PROJECT 11 VEHICLES ASSIGNED TO THE NARCOTIC ENFORCEMENT UNIT AND 8 VEHICLES ASSIGNED TO THE NARCOTIC INTELLIGENCE UNIT. THE BALANCE OF THE UNITS WILL

BE UTILIZED BY CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT UNITS AND WILL NECESSARILY BE INVOLVED IN NARCOTICS CONTROL.

4. HAVING SUBMITTED A NARCOTICS ACTION PLAN, AND VARIOUS AMENDMENTS (PARAGRAPH1), THE APPROVAL OF WHICH BY THE DEPARTMENT HAS CONSTITUTED OUR AUTHORITY TO PROCEED WITH A PROJECT AGREEMENT, TRUST DEPARTMENT WILL UNDERSTAND OUR RELUCTANCE TO SUBMIT A DRAFT PROAG FOR WASHINGTON REVIEW AT THIS LATE DATE IN THE PROAG NEGOTIATION STAGE. VIEW HERE IS THAT PROAG APPROVAL IS A FIELD FUNCTION FOR WHICH DEPARTMENT HAS ALREADY GIVEN US AMPLE AUTHORITY TO PURSUE.

5. WE HOPE FOREGOING RESPONSE PROVIDES ADEQUATE BASIS FOR DEPARTMENT'S RELEASE OF \$94,000 ALLOTMENT WHICH HAS ALREADY BEEN APPROVED BY DEPARTMENT FOR CUSTOMS COMMODITIES. AS DEPARTMENT KNOWS, CUSTOMS PROAG EXPIRES DECEMBER 15. IT IS CRUCIAL, THEREFORE, TO HAVE FUNDS RELEASED IN TIME TO NEGOTIATE NEW AGREEMENT ASAP.
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